

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 24, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Burnley Drive Mercury Spill, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

On August 14, 2007, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requested United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assistance for a mercury spill at a residential property in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. According to the Bloomfield Township Fire Department, the mercury was spilled outdoors onto a driveway and surrounding grass and soil. Between the time of the spill and the fire department response, the home owner attempted to clean the spilled mercury with a shop vacuum. With assistance from U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Leonard Zintak, the fire department secured the scene and found alternate housing for the resident. On August 15, 2007, U.S. EPA OSC Jon Gulch and the Superfund Technical Assistance Team (START) contractor mobilized to the site to conduct air monitoring of the house, garage, personal belongings, and the affected area. Based on the results of the screening, and the inability of the property owner to fund the cleanup, the Emergency and Rapid Response Service (ERRS) contractor was mobilized to perform the removal action. The removal action was completed August 15.

Contacts: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)
Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

Time-Critical Removal Start, Smiths Creek Residential, Kimball Township, Michigan

On August 7, 2007, U.S. EPA initiated a removal action at Smiths Creek Residence, in Kimball Township, Michigan. The Kimball Township Fire Department requested assistance at the site in December 2006. U.S. EPA conducted a site investigation and documented ignitable hazardous waste, corrosive wastes, and several labeled and unlabeled laboratory reagents on site. During the removal, 50 capacitors containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were identified. As part of the planned removal actions, the building was secured; and all drums and containers have been segregated into waste streams and staged for disposal, pending approval. In addition, seven 1-cubic yard boxes of circuit boards and miscellaneous electronic devices have been sent to an electronics recycler.

Contact: Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

Removal Start, Trails Industrial Plating, Peoria, Illinois

On August 20, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jaime Brown and the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor mobilized to the Trails Industrial Plating Site in Peoria, Illinois. At the site, ERRS will be disposing of demolition debris and soil contaminated with chromium, lead, and cyanide. ERRS has begun the process of moving the debris and breaking up the building foundation, so the soil underneath can be screened. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is providing assistance by screening the soil with one of their X-ray fluorescence (XRF) units. It is anticipated that the removal will take approximately 14 working days to complete.

Contact: Jaime Brown (312-802-0682)

Five Year Review Report Completed, Albion-Sheridan Landfill Superfund Site, Albion, Michigan

A Five Year Review Report was completed and signed on August 15, 2007, for the Albion-Sheridan Landfill Superfund site in Albion, Michigan. The report was based on a site inspection in November 2006 that found the site to be secure and in proper condition for operation and maintenance. Future issues that need to be addressed are noted in the report. The final signed report confirms that the Albion-Sheridan Landfill Site remains protective of both human health and the environment.

The Albion-Sheridan Landfill site is currently in operation & maintenance under the 1995 Record of Decision and 1999 Consent Decree. Remedial action requirements at the site included: removal of solid and liquid waste drums from the site; construction of a solid waste landfill cover, including a flexible membrane liner and gas venting; installation of a groundwater monitoring system, incorporating natural attenuation for arsenic; and institutional controls.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

Settlement, Newport-St. Paul Cold Storage Company, Newport, Minnesota

On August 21, 2007, U.S. EPA filed a combined Complaint and Consent Agreement and Final Order to resolve alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103(a) release reporting requirements. The Complaint alleged that Newport-St. Paul Cold Storage Company (Newport), failed to immediately notify the National Response Center of a release of a 950 pounds of ammonia (reportable quantity of 100 pounds) which occurred from their facility on June 6, 2005. The release was reported to the National Response Center (NRC) more than 37 hours after its occurrence. The release occurred when a temperature probe measuring outside temperature malfunctioned telling their Energy Management System the outside temperature was below 32 degrees. When the outside temperature is below 32 degrees, the condenser water pumps shut down, causing head pressure to increase and shut down the boosters. The high pressure condition also caused a seal failure on one of the boosters and exposed a cracked defrost coil in a defrost drain pan. There were no injuries or evacuations. Newport will pay a civil penalty of \$11,223. The original propose penalty was \$17,266. Newport was given reductions to the proposed penalty for quick settlement, good attitude, and cooperation.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

Judicial Civil Complaint Filed and Consent Decree Lodged, Premcor Refinery Group, Inc., Lima, Ohio

On August 16, 2007, the United States Department of Justice on behalf of the U.S. EPA filed a civil complaint and lodged a Consent Decree Addendum against The Premcor Refinery Group, Inc., Lima, Ohio. The allegations in the complaint involve the Clean

Air Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. There were releases of which The Premcor Refinery Group, Inc., failed to immediately notify the National Response Center, the State Emergency Response Commission, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

As part of the settlement agreement, The Premcor Refinery Group, Inc. will pay a civil penalty and has also agreed to implement injunctive relief projects.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Public Meeting, Quarterly Tri-Cities Dioxin Community Meeting, Saginaw, Michigan

On August 9, 2007, a public meeting was held at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw, Michigan, to discuss ongoing and proposed corrective action work being conducted by Dow Chemical Company (Dow) in and around the Tittabawassee River. Agenda items included updates on Upper Tittabawassee River investigation work, The Middle Tittabawassee River Proposed Sampling and Analysis Plan with modifications, the Saginaw River Sediment Trap Study. In addition, an explanation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) orders for the Tittabawassee River Interim Response activities, project timelines, and a project status report for Reaches D, J/K, and O was presented. The public also had an open question and answer forum to present questions to any of the attendees. Attendees included U.S. EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Community Health, and Dow, along with their consultants.

Contacts: James Augustyn (440-250-1742)
 Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)
 Greg Rudloff (312-886-0455)
 Gerald Phillips (312-886-0977)
 Karen Thompson (312-353-8547)

Public Meeting, Morrow Plating Co. Site, Toledo, Ohio

On August 15, 2007, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator Jon Gulch and Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete attended an East Toledo Block Watch meeting, which includes the neighborhood that surrounds the Morrow Plating Co. Site in Toledo, Ohio. The Morrow Plating Co. Site is a former plating shop that contained

hazardous waste that posed an imminent and substantial threat to the surrounding neighborhood. The main focus of the meeting for the group was to discuss their concerns about vandalism and trespassing. The group will work with the City of Toledo and their City Council representative to establish a plan for the building. During the meeting, several residents expressed their appreciation to the U.S. EPA for the immediate response to the problems at the site.

Contacts: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)
Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

National Sediment Forum Call, Chicago, Illinois

On August 23, 2007, the third National Sediment Forum call was held. All Regions were represented, as well as the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI). Guest presentations were: Active Capping and Reactive Core Mats (RCM) by Danny Reible, University of Texas-Austin; and, RCM Application at Stryker Bay, Duluth, Minnesota, by Mike Barres, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Stryker Bay is part of the St. Louis River Superfund site.

Additional agenda items included a brief overview of the recently established National Sediment Forum web site on U.S. EPA's Environmental Science Connector, and the proposed Mission Statement. The call ended with plans to pursue a potential presentation on the recent National Research Council report, "Sediment Dredging at Superfund Megsites: Assessing the Effectiveness" at the next, or a later, call.

Bonnie Eleder, Region 5, and Kymberlee Keckler, Region 1, co-chair the Forum. The Forum is open to U.S. EPA employees with an interest in contaminated sediment issues and sites. The next call is October 25, 2007.

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cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
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